(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) wheter it is also a fact that the most of the BPL population is also residing in these States; and

(d) if so, the percentage of total poors of the country residing in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) According to the results of 2001 census, 41.05% of country's population reside in undivided Uttar Pradesh, undivided Bihar, undivided Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission estimates poverty for the years for which NSS data on household consumer expenditure from the large sample surveys are available and the latest such data is available for the year 1999-2000 (55th Round). On the basis of the 1999-2000 survey the Planning Commission estimated the total number of poor living in the states of undivided Uttar Pradesh, undivided Bihar, undivided Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as 1335.90 lakhs, which is about 51.33% of total number of poor at the national level.

Investment to improve the economy

3572. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided the decade ahead to turn into one of investment to covert the nation into a first-rate agricultural, industrial and service economy; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Tenth Five Year Plan aims at doubling of the per capita income in time-span of a decade. For the pursuance of this goal, the Tenth Five Year Plan had aimed for accelerating the growth rate in the years to come in agricultural, industrial and services sectors. In order to achieve the accelerated growth rates, the Plan aimed at raising savings and investment rates in the Plan. As a result, the savings and investment rates in economy have increased from 23.6% and 23.0% respectively, in 2001-02 to 29.1% and 30.1%, respectively in 2004-05, the latest year for which the information is

available. Both the Tenth Five Year Plan and the Mid-term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Plan have suggested a number of measures to raise the growth rate in the country. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, *viz.* power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving allocative efficiency of resources, enacting policy reforms with a view to creating an investor friendly environment, improving governance and enhancing the efficiency of delivery systems, etc. A large number of new programmes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Accelerated Power Development Programme, Bharat Nirman Programme, National Highway Development Programme and National Urban Renewal Mission have been launched to achieve accelerated growth rates. Other important measures for development of infrastructure are creation of special purpose vehicle to finance infrastructure, rapid infrastructure development through PPP and liberal, transparent and investor-friendly FDI policy wherein FDI up to 100 per cent is allowed under automatic route for most of the sectors with restrictions in few sectors.

Bharat Nirman Programme in Rajasthan

3573. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects proposed by the State Government of Rajasthan, which fall under the canopy of "Bharat Nirman Programme" are pending for approval of the Central Government, since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in disposal/approval; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The four year Bharat Nirman programme was launched only in 2005-06 and it is funding of approved ongoing programmes and up scaling of some of these programmes. The Central assistance to Rajasthan in 2005-06 for various components under the Bharat Nirman Programme are as under.